THE PROTESTANT Christian-Quaker A SUFFERER BY Reliques of Popery

UNDER

All Powers for Thirty Years last past, who have PERSECUTED for Religion, yet call the Holy Scriptures their RULE, that justifieth No such Practice.

By *George Fox.*

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Here all may see what it is to be Conformable to the Death of the Son of God; and what it is to be Conformed to the Image of the Son of God; and also what it is to be Transformed from the World: And likewise, how that We, the People of God in Scorn called *Quakers*, are the *True Protestants*, and have Suffered this Thirty Years by All the Powers for not Conforming to the *Reliques of Popery*, that have been held up by *Presbyterians*, *Independents*, *Anabaptists* and *Protestants*, so called, who say, *The Scripture is their Rule*; but yet never could make these *Popish Reliques* good by Scripture, which they have practised, and for which we have Suffered.

The Noble Bereans *searched the Scriptures daily, to see whether those things were so as the Apostles preached*, Acts 17. 10, 11.

THE Apostle exhorts the *Christians, To be Conformed to the Image of the Son of God*, Rom. 8. 29. *Who is the Brightness of God's Glory, and the Express Image of his Substance*, Hebr. 1.

And further, the Apostle saith, *That I might know Christ, and*

the Powr of his Resurrection, and the Fellowship of his Sufferings, being made conformable to his Death.

And also, the Apostle exhorts the Church, *Rom.* 12. saying, *Be not Conformable to this World; but be you Transformed by renewing of your Mind, that you may prove what is that Good, that Acceptable and Perfect Will of God.*

Now here are three things for all *Christians* to mind:

1st, First, *They must be conformable to Christ's Death.*

2dly, *They must be conformed to the Image of the Son of God, who is the Brightness of the Glory of God, and the express Image of the Father's Substance.*

3dly, Thirdly, *They must not be Conformable to the World; but be Transformed from the World.*

Now to know what it is to be Transformed from the World, and not be Conformable to the World, first they must know what the World is, that they must not be Conformable unto, but be Transformed from.

Which the Apostle describes to be the Lust of the Eye, the Lust of the Flesh, and the Pride of Life, which is not of the Father, but of the World, and therefore must not be Conformed unto, nor Loved, but be Transformed from; for it passes away, and the Lust thereof.

For if any man love the World (saith the Apostle) *and the things of the World, the Love of the Father is not in him,* John 1. 2.

Now to be Conformable to Christ's Death, the Apostle saith, *If they be dead with Christ, and Conformable to his Death; then they are dead with Christ from the Rudiments of the World, and they cannot be subject to the Worldly Ordinances, and Commandments, and Doctrines of Men.*

So here the World hath its Ordinances, its Commandments and its Doctrines, which are not to be touched, nor tasted, nor handled by them that are Conformable to the Death of Christ, and are dead with him, and so Conformable to the Image of the Son of God, *who is the Brightness of God's Glory, and the Express Image of his Substance.*

Now

Now all such as are Conformable to the Death of Christ, and are dead with him, and are Conformed to the Image of the Son of God, which was the only Conformity the Apostle preached up; all such (*1st*,) cannot be Conformable to the World, nor to the Lust of the Eye, nor to the Lust of the Flesh, nor to the Pride of Life; (*2dly*,) nor to their Doctrines, nor Commandments of men, nor Ordinances, nor Traditions, no not so much as to touch, taste or handle them; for they all perish with the using of them, saith the Apostle. But their Conformity must be to the Image of the Son of God, as the Apostles preached.

Now this Conformity to the Son of God was never held up nor defended by Outward Carnal Weapons, neither by Christ nor his Apostles: for Christ said, *He came not to destroy men's Lives, but to save them.*

And the Apostles did affirm, that their War and Weapons were not Carnal, but Spiritual; and they did not wrestle with Flesh and Blood, but with the Powers of Darkness, and Spiritual Wickedness in High Places, for the plucking and pulling down the Castles and Strong Holds of Satan, which he had set up in Men and Women's Hearts since they fell from God.

So its clear, the Apostles did not preach up a Conformity to the Image of the Son of God by Carnal Weapons.

So the Apostles that preached Conformity to the Image of the Son of God, and to his Death, did not Hang, Burn, Banish, Imprison or Persecute any, or Cut Off the Ears, or Whip, or Spoil any Peoples Goods, that did not Conform to the Image of the Son of God, or Conform to his Death. Nay, they did not Imprison, Put to Death, or Spoil the Goods of any of them that were conformable to the World and their Doctrines; but invited them, and exhorted them, and shewed them the Danger, if they did not Conform to the Image of the Son of God, and receive his Grace, Light, Spirit, Truth and Gospel.

And they that did not Dye with Christ, could not Live with him; nor Suffer with him, could not Reign with him.

Now they that are conformable to the Image of the Son of God, are conformable to their Saviour, their Redeemer and Mediator, and to the New Covenant of Grace, Light and Life, and to the Worship in Spirit and Truth, and to the true Church which Christ

is

is the Infallible Head of, who hath destroyed the Devil and his Image, who is the Head of all false Images, and Image-makers and Worshippers.

And therefore it is but fit that all *Christians* should be conformable to the Image of Christ; and unto the Happiness of this Conformity the Devil is an Enemy, and Satan is an Adversary, and as he is a Devil, he seeks to destroy all them that are conformable unto it, and that bear the Image of the Son of God.

And now all the Doctrines, Rudiments and Commandments of men, which are not to be touched nor tasted, and so not to be conformed unto, but transformed from; for they are but the Inventions of such as have not heard God and Christs Voice, though they may have all the Form of Godliness both in the Old and New Testament; and being out of the Power and Spirit that they were in that gave it forth, all such are to be turned away from, and not to be conformed unto, according to the Apostles Doctrine.

For it is the Power and Spirit of God and Christ that brings to turn away from them, and brings to be conformed to the Image of the Son of God, and so to do his Will, and to know his Doctrine that is from above.

Now the Doctrines, Ordinances, Commandments and Rudiments of the men of the World, they are below: *For the World by Wisdom knows not God*; and they with their Wisdom would bring all men to a Conformity to their Image, like *Nebuchadnezzer* which he set up, and to fall down to it, else into his fiery Furnace they must be thrown, and *Daniel* must be cast into the Lyons Den.

So this was in the time of the Old Covenant amongst the *Jews*, who were to be conformable to the Law of God. So they were not to conform to the Ordinances or Commandments, and Decrees, and Wayes, and Worships of the men of the World, as *Nebuchadnezzar* and *Darius*, and the like, about Religion.

Which Law and old Covenant that came by *Moses*, Christ hath abolished: But Grace and Truth is come by Jesus Christ, in his new Covenant, by which all must hear Christ, who is an infallible Prophet, and an infallible Priest, who lives forever, and is an infallible Shepherd and Bishop of Peoples Souls; and to his infallible Image must all true *Christians* be conformed.

Now since the Apostles dayes, how many Wayes, Religions, Worships,

Worſhips, Faiths and Creeds have been made by Men and Councils, unto which Conformity hath been required; and yet they confeſs and ſay, *They have not the ſame Power and Infallible Spirit as the Apoſtles had.* So then it's clear they are not guided by the ſame infallible Spirit; and yet ſuch take upon them to Judge of, and give forth Doctrine, Religions, Wayes, Worſhips, Faiths, and of mens Eternal-States, with their Fallible Spirit which they confeſs they are in; and then all their Religions, Wayes, Worſhips, Faiths, Doctrines, Creeds, Ordinances and Directories muſt be Fallible. And yet theſe are ſuch as will Fine and Compel (with Carnal weapons) men to Conform, and fall down to, and conform to their fallible Wayes, Doctrines, Religions, Worſhips, Faiths, Creeds and Ordinances and Canons, by force of Carnal Weapons.

And what is this they would have Conformity to? But the Likeneſs or Image of a Way, Religion, Faith and Worſhip, that is not ſet up by the ſame Infallible Spirit and Power as the Apoſtles were in: And becauſe People will not conform and bow down to their Image of a Faith, Religion, Worſhip and Church, that their fallible Spirit hath ſet up; therefore they will Baniſh, Whip, Impriſon, Burn and Hang, or ſpoil the Goods of ſuch as cannot conform to this their Image.

Now how many Images of Religions and Wayes have been ſet up ſince the Apoſtles dayes? And how much Blood hath been ſhed? And what Burning, Baniſhing, Killing, Hanging and ſpoiling of Goods hath been, for not conforming to the Image which this fallible Spirit hath ſet up? For they all confeſs they have not the ſame infallible Spirit and Power as the Apoſtles had: And yet theſe called *Chriſtians* will ſay the Scriptures are their Rule for their Life and Practice, &c. Then let them come to the Rule and try their Practices by it.

For the Apoſtles did not Hang, Burn, Baniſh, or Impriſon, or ſpoil the Goods of any that were not conformable to the Image of the Son of God, but ſtill conformed to the World. Neither did they wreſtle with Fleſh and Blood; and the Weapons of their Warfare were Spiritual, and not Carnal, by which they wreſtled with Spiritual Wickedneſſes, and pluckt down the ſtrong Holds of Satan, which he the foul Spirit had ſet up in Men and Womens Hearts.

Now all you that wreſtle with Fleſh and Blood, with Carnal Weapons,

Weapons, and have Hanged, Burned, Impriſoned, Baniſhed and ſpoiled the Goods of ſuch as could not conform to the Image of your Waye, Religions, Faith and Worſhip, (who confeſs, as was before ſaid, that you have not the ſame Power and Spirit as the Apoſtles had) but conform to the Image of the Son of God, declared in the Scripture of the New Teſtament: In this your Practice the Scripture hath not been your Rule, if you will believe the Apoſtles and Chriſt's Doctrine, who ſaid, *he came to ſave mans Lives, and not to deſtroy them.*

But the *Papiſts*, they cry, *Conform, Conform* to their Image of *Maſs*, &c. or elſe away with them to the Inquiſition, or Rack, or Torture, or the like.

And the *Turk* he cryes, *Conform, Conform* to his Image which *Mahomet* hath ſet up, and to their *Alcoran.*

And did not the *Heathen* Emperors cry, *Conform, Conform*, and perſecute the *Chriſtians*, becauſe they could not conform to their Idol Images, which they had ſet up?

And the *Proteſtant* he cryes *Conform, Conform*, or elſe Perſecute and Impriſon, as the many Goals do teſtifie.

And the *Presbyterian* he cryed, *Conform, Conform* to his Image the *Directory*, or elſe he will Hang them on his Gallows, and cut off the Ears, Baniſh, Whip, and ſpoil the Goods of all ſuch as will not Conform, as witneſs the *Presbyterian* Prieſts and Magiſtrates in *New-England*; and alſo in Old *England* they were bad enough, who cryed, *Conform, Conform* to their *Directory:* And yet they confeſs alſo, that they have not the ſame Spirit and Power as the Apoſtles had.

And the *Independants* they cry, *Conform, Conform* to their Image, their *Church-Faith* they made at the *Savoy* in Eleaven dayes time; and ſo would have all to conform to their Church, Way, Faith and Worſhip, and give his Prieſts Maintenance and Tythes, or elſe he will fill his Priſons alſo with *Non-Conformiſts*, and there keep them to Death, and made many Widows and Fatherleſs.

And the *Anabaptiſts* they cry, *Conform, Conform* to their Image, and be of their Church, or elſe Perſecute; as witneſs Prieſt *Tomms* of *Lemſter*, who ſued ſome Friends for Tythe Eggs.

So all theſe cry, *Conform, Conform, Conform*; but the Apoſtle ſaith, *Touch not, Taſte not, Handle not the Doctrines, Ordinances*

and

and Commandments of men, and the Rudiments of the World; but be conformed to the Image of the Son of God, and be conformable to his Death, and be ye not conformable to the World; but be ye Transformed, &c.

So every one that gets uppermoſt, and gets the Staff of Authority, commands People to put into his Bag, and to feed their Prieſts with Tythes and ſet Maintenance, &c. And the Prieſts cry, *The Law of the Land requires it.* But no Law or Command of Jeſus requires it, who ſaid, *Freely you have received, freely give.*

So hath it not been the Beaſt and the Whore that did compel all with their Carnal Weapons to conform to their Images? But Chriſt and the Apoſtles did not compel any to conform by Carnal Weapons to his Image, neither did they ſpoil the Goods of any of thoſe that would not be conformable to the Image of Chriſt.

Neither do you read that the *Jews* did compel any of the Nations they had Conquered, to be conformable to the Law of God, but they lived under them as Tributaries: But if of their own accord they would joyn with them in a Voluntary ſubmiſſion, they might.

Neither do we read that King *Abimelech* did go about to compel *Abraham* or *Iſaac* to conform to his Religion, or that either *Abraham* or *Iſaac* went about to compel him or any of his Subjects, to conform to their God and his Law, by or with Carnal Weapons.

Neither do we read that *Pharaoh* did go about to compel by Carnal Weapons the Children of *Iſrael*, which ſojourned in his Country to be of his Religion.

Neither do we read that *Joſeph*, when he had great power in *Ægypt*, next unto the King, did go about to compel any of the *Ægyptians* to be of his Religion, or that *Pharaoh* did go about to compel him to his Religion by carnal Weapons.

Neither do we read that any of thoſe famous Fathers in the old World, from *Seth* to *Noah*, did go about to compel with carnal Weapons the ſtock of *Cain*, to be conformable to their Religion.

But all are to be conformable to the Image of the Son of God: for that is an Infallible Conformity to an Infallible Image: For Chriſt deſtroys the Devil and his Works, who is the Head of all falſe and fallible Images, and Likeneſſes, and falſe Wayes, Religions, Doctrines, Ordinances and Rudiments of the World, which are not to be touched, taſted nor handled, and ſo not to be conform-

ed unto. For by one man's disobedience came Sin and Death unto Condemnation upon all men: And so by one mans obedience, Christ Jesus, is Justification of Life come upon all men; and so Christ hath tasted Death for every man, that they might be conformable unto his Death; and he hath enlightned all men that come into the World, that by it they might come to the knowledge of him, and so to be conformable to his holy and glorious Image, who bruises the Head of all the false Images and Likeness-makers.

And his Grace which bringeth Salvation, hath appeared to all men, to teach them, that they may deny all Ungodliness and Unrighteousness, and the Lusts of the World, and not be conformable unto them, but to be conformable unto the glorious Image of the Son of God, in his Light, Grace, Truth, Spirit, Gospel and Faith that comes from him, the Author of it. And so be made Conformable unto his Death, and to his Image of Righteousness and Holiness; and not to be Conformable unto the World's Lusts, nor Vanities, nor their Images, nor Likenesses of Wayes, Worships, Doctrines, Ordinances, Churches, Faiths and Creeds, which they have set up with their Fallible Spirit; but to be conformed to the Image of the Son of God, which is the Universal Conformity that ought to be by all the Believers in Christ Jesus, which is the alone Infallible Conformity in the Infallible Spirit of Christ, to his Infallible Image, who is the Brightness of God's Glory, and the express Image of his Substance, whose Image never changes; so a Conformity to an Unchangeable Image, whose Image never fell, who is the Brightness of the Glory of God, and the express Image of the Father's Substance.

So he is over all, and liveth forever, who is the First and Last, in whom all Nations are blessed, who destroyeth the Devil and his Works, and bruiseth his Head, and defaceth his Image, in whom all Nations have been Cursed.

So to this Glorious Unchangeable Image of the Son of God, the Second *Adam*, that never fell, in whose Mouth there was no Guile, who came to save mens Lives, and not to destroy them; I say, unto his Image must all be Conformable, who destroyes the Devil that hath destroyed mens Lives, because they would nō Conform to their False and Changeable Religions, Wayes, Worships and Faiths.

But

But Christ nor his Apostles in the New Covenant did never destroy the Lives of any, nor spoil the Goods of any, because they would not be conformable to Christs Way, Religion, Church, Faith and Worship; but if they would not be perswaded, they left them to the Judgment of the Lord.

Therefore, how far are men degenerated since the Apostles days, from the Apostles Warfare and Weapons, Doctrine, Faith, Worship, Church and Image, that they were conformable unto? Let them that are conformed to the Image of the Son of God judge.

And thus People having erred from the Spirit of God and Christ, and hating his Light, and walking despightfully against the Spirit of Grace, not being conformable to the Image of the Son of God in themselves, but are conformable to the Spirit of the World in them, which Lusts to Envy, by which they have set up their Doctrines, Commandments, Ordinances, Wayes and Worships, and cryed, *Conform, Conform to them*; though they be uncertain how long their Way, Worship and Religion shall stand, which hath been no longer, than till another Power get up over them, of another Way, Religion and Worship, which calls to them, to Conform to their Way.

And from this Fallible Spirit hath all the Persecution and Bloodshed been about Religion, and Spoiling of Goods, Imprisonments and Banishments since the Apostles dayes, who are erred from the same Spirit and Power the Apostles were in, and so from their Spiritual Weapons also.

And the Apostle saith to the *Galatians*, *How turn you again to the Weak and Beggarly Rudiments of the World, wherein you desire again to be in Bondage! ye Observe Dayes, and Times, and Moneths, and Years; I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed on you Labour in vain*, Gal. 4.

And doth not the Apostle here call these Beggarly Elements of the World?

And did not the Apostle say while he was amongst the *Jews*, and under these Elements of the World, *He was Carnal, sold under Sin*? Rom. 7. 14.

And did not the Apostle say, *That Christ was an High Priest, not made after the Law of a carnal Commandment, but after the Power of an Endless Life*? Heb. 7.

And

And again, doth not the Apoſtle ſet forth, *How that the Firſt Covenant had worldly Ordinances, &c. and had outward Lights and Lamps; and their outward Services which ſtood in Meats and Drinks, and divers outward Waſhings, and carnal Ordinances; theſe things were impoſed upon them until the time of Reſtitution came?* Heb. 9.

So, doth not the Apoſtle call all theſe Outward Things in the old Covenant, which were ſeen with the Carnal Eye, Worldly and Carnal, which the *Jews* were to be conformable unto in the old Covenant, which ſerved until the time of Reformation by Chriſt, who Reforms People out of thoſe Carnal Worldly Elements and Rudiments in his New Covenant of Light and Grace; ſo that they come to be conformable to his Death, and to his Image; and not to be Conformable to the World's Elementary things, which paſs away?

And Chriſt ſaith, *The World hated him, and he was not of the World, but teſtified againſt it, and therefore it hated him.*

And he ſaid unto his Diſciples, *That they were not of the World, as he was not of the World*; and therefore they were to be conformable to the Image of Chriſt, and not to the Image of the World.

And the Apoſtle ſaid, *The World by Wiſdom knew not God; and the Wiſdom of the World is Fooliſhneſs; and the Faſhion of this World paſſeth away.*

So can People that are Conformable to the Image of the Son of God, who is not of the World, be Conformable to the World's Wiſdom and Faſhions that paſs away, and to that Wiſdom which is Fooliſhneſs, by which they do not know God?

And therefore, as Chriſt ſaid, *They that are of the World, ſpeak of the World*; but he is not of the World, unto whoſe Image every true Believer muſt be conformable.

And *John* ſaid, *Whoſoever is born of God, Overcometh the World; and this is the Victory that overcometh the World, even your Faith, which Faith Jeſus Chriſt is the Author and Finiſher of.*

And he ſaid to the true Believing Chriſtians in his General Epiſtle, *We are of God, and the whole World lieth in Wickedneſs.*

And again, *John* ſaith, *Little Children you have Overcome the World, becauſe greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the World; and they that are of the World, ſpeak of the World, and the World heareth them; and we are of God; and he that knoweth God heareth*

us, and he that is not of God heareth not us; hereby know we the Spirit of Truth, and the Spirit of Error.

So its clear, that *John* here and the true Church of Christ was conformed to the Image of the Son of God, and not to the World, nor their Wayes, nor Wisdom, by which they knew not God; but said, they had Victory over the World; and their Victory was their Faith: so then they were not like to conform to that which they had Victory over.

And therefore by the World and its Spirit they suffered, for not being conformable to its Wayes and Ordinances; for the Spirit of God cannot be conformable to the Spirit of the World, nor its Image, but brings to be conformed to the Image of the Son of God, whose Image is the brightness of the Glory of God, and express Image of the Father's Substance.

THe Lord hath chosen us a People to himself, and led us by his Light out of Darkness, and by his Power from under the Power of Satan, and by his holy pure Spirit, Grace and Truth, which we received of Christ Jesus, and by it to follow him, who is not of the World; and so to walk in him, who is the New and Living Way, by whom all things were made and created, who is our Rest, Peace and Salvation, our Rock, Foundation and Mediator, who makes our Peace betwixt us and God, and he is our Priest Prophet, Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls, in his Grace, Truth, Gospel and Spirit, which is come from him, by it we are joyned to him; and so through Christ, with his Light, Power and Spirit we do see over all the Wayes, Religions and Worships, and the Churches, which men that are fallen from the Spirit and Power that Christ and his Apostles were in, have set up; and cannot joyn unto, nor walk in any of their Wayes, Religions and Worships, but in that new and living Way, that was set up above sixteen hundred years since, and in that Faith which Christ is the Author and Finisher of now, as he was in the Apostles dayes; and in that Religion which was set up above Sixteen Hundred Years since, which is pure and undefiled before God, and keeps from the Spots of the World;

and in that Worſhip which Chriſt ſet up in the Spirit and Truth, which comes by him, which he ſet up above ſixteen hundred years ſince.

And we do joyn to that Church which is come to the heavenly *Jeruſalem*, and the *Spirits of juſt men made Perfect*, which are the living Stones, and ſpiritual Houſhold; not a carnal Houſhold, with their carnal *Jeruſalem*, and carnal worldly Sanctuaries and Temples.

And this Church is a holy Prieſthood, offering up ſpiritual Sacrifices unto God; of which Church Chriſt is the heavenly and ſpiritual Head and Husband; and ſo their heavenly Prophet and Biſhop, and ſpiritual Prieſt, that lives forever in his Church.

And now, we have been branded, as being *Papiſts and Jeſuits, and Popiſhly affected.* But be it known to all the World, That we are neither *Papiſts* nor *Popiſhly* affected; for our Religion, Way and Worſhip, and the Grace, Truth, Spirit, Faith and Goſpel of Chriſt, which we walk and live in, was before the Pope, Papiſts and Jeſuits, and their Religions and Worſhips were.

And we have ſuffered in the dayes of *Oliver Cromwell*, and in his *Long-Parliament-Time*; and before *Oliver* was Protector we ſuffered by Papiſts Laws, and Laws made in Queen *Mary*'s time.

And we ſuffered in the dayes of the *Presbyterians*, *Independents*, and *Anabaptiſts*, and now by the *Epiſcopalians*.

And the chief cauſe of all our Sufferings, that have been by all theſe that have had Power, was for denying, and not joyning to the Popiſh and Jeſuitical Wayes, and the Reliques of the Papiſts, which they held up and allowed of amongſt them.

As *Firſt*, For our not paying the *Presbyterian* Prieſts, *Independents* and *Baptiſts*, and now the *Epiſcopalians*, their Tythes, Eaſter-reckonings, Midſummer-dues, Mortuaries, and ſuch like, and Surplices, Pulpit-clothes and Cuſhions, and Steeple-houſe or old Maſs-houſe Rates; and Clerks Wages, and ſuch like Services.

Now hath not the Pope and the Papiſts been the Founders of all theſe things, and not Chriſt nor his Apoſtles? and do not all theſe things ſtink of Popery? for Chriſt ſaith to his Miniſters, that he made and ſent forth to preach; *Freely you have received, Freely give.* And the Apoſtle ſaith, *He coveted no mans Silver, or Gold, or Apparel*;

parel; but kept the Gospel without Charge; and declared against Covetous Teachers.

And Christ said, *The outward Temple should be thrown down, and not one Stone left upon another*; *for he would build up a Temple of living Stones*; *a spiritual Houshold*, in his new Covenant, whose household the true *Christians* are.

And *Stephen* and the Apostle said, *The most High did not dwell in Temples made with hands.*

And moreover the Apostle said, *That the Bodies of the Saints were the Temples of God and of Christ, and of his holy Ghost.*

So then they were not like to Mend or Repair the old Temple and Houses, and call them Churches, whenas they said, *The most High dwelt not in Temples made with hands, but their Bodies were the Temples of the holy Ghost.* And so Christ preached or propheſied, *That they should be thrown down*; and the Apostles preached them down, and said, *The Bodies of the Believers were the Temples of the Living God.*

2*dly*, We have suffered because we would not bring our Infants, and give the Priest Money for to sprinkle them; and Church our Women: And because we would not Marry with the Priest, and bring him a Ring to put on, and give him Money for that Service.

And hath not this also been derived from the *Pope*, *Papists* and *Heathen*, who Marryed with the Ring? and not from Christ and his Apostles; which Practice of theirs herein they could never prove, or make good by Scripture, from Christ and the Apostles.

And also, We have suffered for bearing our Testimony against their Priests Education at Schools, and their taking of Degrees, as *Batchelors* and *Masters of Art*, and *Doctors of Divinity*, *&c.* and against their Garbs of White Coats and Black Coats, and their being called of men Masters, like the proud *Pharisees*, and to be called Gracious Lords, like the *Gentiles*.

And are not all these things from the *Pope* and *Papists*, and the *Heathen?* and not from Christ nor the Apostles.

For Christ forbids his Ministers to be called of men Masters; *For you have but one Master, even Christ*; *and you are all Brethren*; and that *they should not exercise Lordship one over another, like the*

Gentiles; and be called *Gracious Lords*; for it ſhould not be ſo amongſt them.

And the Apoſtle *Peter* exhorted, *That they ſhould feed the Flock of God, but not to be as Lord's over Gods Inheritance*, as in 1 *Pet.* 5. *In the World there be Lord's many; but to us but One Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by whom were all things made; and one Lord God, the Creator of all; and one Faith, and one Baptiſm*: And Chriſt alone is the one ſaving Baptizer.

And therefore, how can the Pope, and his Biſhops and Cardinals ſay, *They are the Succeſſors of Peter*, when they are called Lords? which *Peter* forbids any of his Succeſſors to be called Lords; *but to be Examples to the Flock.* And ſo, in this they are Tranſgreſſors of *Peter*'s Doctrine and Command, and Chriſt's, who hath ſaid, *They ſhould not be called Gracious Lords, like the* Gentiles.

And *Chriſt* ſaith, *whom God hath joyn'd together, let no man put aſſunder*. So he doth not ſay, whom the Prieſt ſhall joyn together, or Marry with the Ring; But, *whom God joyneth together, let no man put aſſunder.*

But amongſt the Sects aforeſaid, the Prieſts have Money for Joyning; and alſo will put aſſunder and Divorce.

3*dly*, Becauſe we will not Bow and put off our Hats, and cannot ſay You to a Single Perſon, but Thou; and becauſe we will not Swear at all.

And is not all this from the Pope and Papiſts, and not from Chriſt and his Apoſtles? For where did ever they caſt any into Priſon for not putting off their Hats to them, though *Every Knee muſt bow to the Name of Jeſus?*

But the Apoſtle doth not ſay, that every one muſt bow the Knee to the Apoſtles, or the Pope, and that they muſt be uncovered to them; for the Apoſtle taught, *That*

they

they must be Uncovered in their Praying or Prophecying to the Lord, because man is the Image of God: But he doth not say, they should be uncovered to men, or bow the Knee to them, but to the Name of Jesus, and to God the Father.

4*thly*, And because we cannot Swear and take Oathes, have we suffered, and been cast in Prison. And hath not this come from the Pope, and Papists, and Heathen, to amongst the Christians, and not from Christ and his Apostles?

For Christ said, *Swear not at all; though they had Sworn in the old Covenant, and they then in the old Time were not to Swear falsly, but truly, and to perform their Oathes to the Lord:* But Christ in his new Covenant of Grace, and in his Gospel saith, *Swear not at all, but let your Yea be Yea, and your Nay, Nay; for whatsoever is more than this cometh of Evil.*

And the Apostle *James* said, *Above all things, my Brethren, Swear not, neither by Heaven, nor by Earth, nor by any other Oath, lest you fall into Condemnation.*

So whether must we follow Christ and the Apostles, or the Pope and his Papists and Jesuits, and the *Heathen*, or others that uphold their Principles?

So in most of the Things and Causes that we have suffered, it hath been for bearing a Testimony against *Popery*, and the *Heathenish* and *Jewish* Inventions and Traditions.

For are not Tythes, Easter-reckonings and Midsummer-dues, their old Mass-house and Clerks Wages, with their Preaching Funeral Sermons, and their Mortuaries, and Churching of Women, and Sprinkling little Infants, and Signing them with the Sign of the Cross, and God-fathers

fathers and Godmothers, and their Swearing, and their Preaching for Money, and by the Hour-Glass, and their making of Ministers at Schools and Colledges, with their Titles of *Batchelors*, *Masters* and *Doctors*, and calling Bishops *Gracious Lords*; and their taking of their Degrees, and their expectation of being bowed unto, and having You said to one of them, with their distinguishing Garments, and White and Black Coats, &c.

Is not all this Trumpery, and much more of the same sort from the *Pope*, *Papists*, *Heathen* or *Jews*, and not from Christ nor the Apostles?

And have not these been, many of them, the chief things for which we have been Imprisoned & Persecuted, and some Banished; and for Meeting together in Houses, as the Apostles and Saints did; yea, Christ himself had his Meetings upon Mountains, and preached out of Ships. Yea, many Thousands of us have suffered Imprisonment and Spoiling of Goods; and some were Banished in *Oliver*'s dayes, and since, for not joyning to these things, which originally came from the *Papists*, or *Heathens*, or *Jews*; which Practice of theirs in these things we have born Testimony against, they could never make good by Scripture of the new Testament.

And therefore, how can either the *Presbyterians*, *Independents*, *Anabaptists* or *Episcopalians* brand us for being *Papists*, or Jesuitically affected; when that our Sufferings have been this thirty Years, or more; some of us for not Conforming to those things aforesaid, which came from the *Pope* and *Papists*, *Jews* and *Heathens*?

And they that live in those Popish things, which they cannot make good by the Scripture of the new Testament, and yet say, *It is their Rule*, such are Popishly affected themselves.

But

But we are the *True Proteſtant-Chriſtians*, and in the ſame Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in, and do proteſt againſt all that which the Apoſtatized Spirit hath ſet up, which is in the Error, from that Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in.

So the Doctrines, Commandments, Ordinances and Traditions, that this Spirit of Error hath ſet up, which is erred from that Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in, we cannot touch, taſte, handle nor joyn with.

5*thly*, Is not all the Obſerving of Holy Dayes, and making of Holy Dayes, as *Chriſtmaſs*, *Candlemaſs*, *Michaelmaſs*, *Eaſter*, *Whitſontide*, and their *Lents*, and calling their Dayes and Moneths by the *Heathens* Names, as is in their *Almanacks*, from the *Pope*, *Papiſts* and *Heathens*, and not from Chriſt nor the Apoſtles?

And have not we ſuffered Impriſonment and Spoiling of Goods, for not Obſerving their Holy Dayes, ſo called?

And was it not the Work and Labour of the Apoſtle to bring People off from obſerving Dayes, Moneths, Times and Years? and them that did go into ſuch things (to wit, Obſerving of Dayes) the Apoſtle told them, That *he was afraid he had beſtowed labour in vain upon them*.

Therefore, as I ſaid before, how can any in Truth and Righteouſneſs, brand us as Papiſts, when we have ſuffered by you that call your ſelves *Proteſtants*, for denying ſuch Popery as you allow of; and have ſpoiled our Goods for not obſerving your Popiſh Holy Dayes, and other Popiſh Things? And yet you ſay, *The Scripture is your Rule*, when you have no ſuch Command in the new Teſtament, to obſerve Dayes, nor thoſe things afore-mentioned, but the contrary.

And

And ſo, for bearing a Teſtimony, and Proteſting againſt ſuch things which you have not from Chriſt nor the Apoſtles, but was ſet up by that Power and Spirit, which is erred from the Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in; and for bearing a Teſtimony againſt the Works and Fruits of this Erring Spirit, have we ſuffered by you called *Proteſtants*, and by the *Papiſts* alſo.

So our Sufferings have been becauſe we could not joyn to that which you have had from the *Papiſts*, *Heathens* and *Jews*, and not from Chriſt nor the Apoſtles.

I ſay, We who are of the Houſhold of the True Catholick Faith, in which the Church was in the Apoſtles dayes, have ſuffered by you, and been branded as *Papiſts*; whereas in Truth we are the true *Proteſtant-Chriſtians*, bearing Teſtimony againſt all *Popiſh*, *Heatheniſh* and *Jewiſh Inventions*, which have been ſet up by that Spirit which is erred from that Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in.

So as *Moſes* the Servant was faithful over his Houſe in the Old Covenant, and the Law of Works; ſo Chriſt the Son of God is over his Spiritual Houſe, in his New Covenant of Light, Life and Grace, whoſe Houſe we are.

THE END.